(c) Government's reaction to effectively curb and prevent Insurgency in that part of the country and such ISI complicity in cross border terrorism?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Recent happenings in Tamilnadu including the serial bomb blasts in Coimbatore on February 14, 1998 suspected to have been engineered by some froeign agencies are subject matter of investigation by a Commission of Inquiry headed by Justice P.R. Gokulakrishanan, former Chief Justice of Gujarat.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government is aware of the sinister designs of ISI of Pakistan to carry out espionage, subversion and sabotage in India in a clandestine manner and is taking all necessary steps to combat and frustrate such objective by gearing up the intelligence machinery, sharing of intelligence and co-ordinated action by the concerned Central and State agencies, strengthening the deployment of Para-Military Forces at strategic locations, intensified coastal as well as inland patrolling, construction of border fencing and flood-lighting in vulnerable stretches of the Indo-Pak border.

Dialogues with North East Insurgents

23. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during his North-East tour in April this year, the Prime Minister not only offered to hold talks with North-East insurgents but also to accommmodate their demands by way of amendments to the Constitution; and

(b) If so, what are the precise promises of the talks offered?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister had, during his visit to Assam in April, extended an invitation to insurgent groups to come forward and hold talks to bring about peace in the region. The Prime Minister in his Press Statement at Guwahati on 15th April, 1998 had stated; "To all those who have strayed from the paths to togetherness, whether in Assam or other States of the North East, I extend an invitation: come forward; let us discuss, my Government is committed to holding talks, to a restoration of peace; let us do so within the four corners of our Constitution".

The Prime Minister also stated that if necessary the Constitution could also be amended to find the solution to the problem.

Changes in the functioning of Police

24. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been contemplating to bring about changes in the functioning of police;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) As "Police" and "Public Order" are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, it is essentially for the State Govenments to bring about changes in the functioning of their respective police forces. Within the Constitutional limitations, however, the Central Government has been writing to the State Governments emphasising the need to bring about such changes. The Stress laid by the Central Government has been on modification of the existing recruitment and training practices in the States and modernisation of their intelligence, weaponry and communication systems in order to keep pace with times. Apart from advisories, the Central Government has been providing financial assistance to the States through its scheme of